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Claims

1. An interactive/electronic guide for allowing navigation around a group of electronic documents, such as an internet or intranet site or such like, the guide being operable automatically to present a plurality of topic identifiers together with an indication of the importance of the topics identified to the group as a whole or in part, each topic being user selectable, wherein the topic identifiers are presented without the need for a user to initiate a key word search and selection of a given topic provides access to information on that selected topic in the group.
2. A guide as claimed in claim 1 wherein topics are presented in pre-determined order, thereby to provide an indication of the importance of the topics to the group as a whole or in part.
3. A guide as claimed in claim 2 wherein the topics are presented in a descending order of importance, with the most important topics being presented at the start of a list and the least important topics being presented at the end of that list.
4. A guide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the topic identifiers are one or more key word or key phrase identifiers.
5. A guide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein a graphical indication is provided to give a visual indication of a topic's importance to the group as a whole or in part.

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6. A guide as claimed in claim 5 wherein the graphical identifier is a bar, the length of which provides an indication of the importance of the associated topic to the group as a whole or in part.

7. A guide as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6 wherein the graphical identifier is selectable, thereby to allow the user to select the associated topic.

8. A guide as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7 wherein selection of a given topic causes one of a plurality of additional guide pages to be presented.

9. A guide as claimed in claim 8 that is operable, on selection of any of the topics or topic identifiers, to cause a similar list of additional topic identifiers to be presented or cause a live web page containing content relating to the desired topic to be presented.

10. A guide as claimed in any of the preceding claims that is operable to present related group identifiers for identifying one or more related groups of electronic documents, such as internet or intranet sites, together with an indication or measure of a similarity between a key topic profile of the first group and each related group.

11. A method for allowing navigation within a group of electronic documents, such as a subset of the world-wide web, for example an internet or intranet site or such like, the method comprising: automatically presenting on a screen or display a plurality of topic identifiers,

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together with an indication of the relative importance of the topics identified to the group as a whole or in part, each topic being user selectable; receiving a user selection of a given topic and providing access to information on the selected topic in response to the user selection.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising presenting related group identifiers for identifying one or more related groups of electronic documents, such as internet or intranet sites, together with an indication or measure of a similarity between a key topic profile of the first group and each related group.

13. A system for navigating within a group of electronic documents, such as a subset of the world-wide web, for example an internet or intranet site or such like, the system comprising: means for automatically presenting on a screen or display a plurality of topic identifiers, together with an indication of the relative importance of the topics identified to the group as a whole or in part, each topic being user selectable; means for receiving a user selection of a given topic and means for providing access to information on the selected topic in response to the user selection.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13 that includes means for presenting related group identifiers for identifying one or more related groups of electronic documents, such as internet or intranet sites, together with an indication or measure of a similarity between a key topic profile of the first group and each related group.

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15. A computer program, preferably on a data carrier or
some other computer readable medium, the computer program
being operable to generate an interactive/electronic
guide for use in the internet or
an intranet or such like, the program having code or
instructions configured to: automatically present a
plurality of topic identifiers, together with an
indication of the importance of the topic to a group of
documents as a whole or in part, each topic being user
selectable; receive a selection of a given topic, and
provide access to information on the selected topic in
response to the topic selection.

16. A computer program as claimed in claim 15 that is
operable to present related group identifiers for
identifying one or more related groups of electronic
documents, such as internet or intranet sites, together
with an indication or measure of a similarity between a
key topic profile of the first group and each related
group.

17. A method for locating groups of information on the
world wide web or in other information stores, the method
comprising: identifying a plurality of candidate groups
of information; deriving a profile of content for each
candidate group; comparing the profile of a first
candidate group with each and every other candidate group
in said plurality of candidate groups in order to
identify any difference or differences in profiles
between the first and other candidate groups.

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18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said profile consists of a plurality of topics

5 19. A method as claimed in claim 17 or claim 18, wherein each said topic is allocated a measure of the importance of said topic to the content of the group as a whole or in part.

10 20. A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said step of comparing comprises counting the number of topics common to both first and other candidate groups.

15 21. A method as claimed in any of claims 17 to 20 wherein the step of comparing incorporates comparing the measures of importance for each key topic in said first candidate group and the measure of importance of same or similar topic in other candidate group.

20 22. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the step of comparing comprises calculating an aggregated comparison across all topics common between said first and the other candidate group.

25 22. A method as claimed in any of claims 17 to 22 further comprising for any one or more of the candidate groups automatically presenting a plurality of topic identifiers together with an indication of the importance of the topics identified, each topic being user selectable, wherein the topic identifiers are presented without the
30 need for a user to initiate a key word search and selection of a given topic provides access to information on that selected topic.

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23. A system for locating groups of information on the world wide web or in other information stores, the system comprising: means for identifying a plurality of candidate groups of information; means for deriving a profile of content for each candidate group, and means for comparing a first candidate group to each and every other second candidate group in said plurality of candidate groups.

24. A system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said comparison means are operable to compute any difference in topic profiles between each and every candidate group.

25. A system as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 wherein said means for deriving a topic profile comprise means for identifying a plurality of key topics in said group.

26. A system as claimed in any of claims 23 to 25 wherein said means for deriving a key topic incorporate means to allocate a measure of the importance of each said topic to the content of said plurality of candidate groups as a whole or in part.

27. A system as claimed in any of claims 23 to 26 said comparison means consists of means for comparing the difference between the measure of importance for one key topic in first candidate group and measure of importance of same or similar topic in second candidate group.

28. A system as claimed in any of claims 23 to 27 said comparison means incorporates summation means operable to compute an aggregate difference between the profiles of

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the first and other candidate groups by summing the individual differences for each topic in said topic profiles.

- 5 29. A method for navigating between and within groups of information on the world-wide web or other information store comprising: presenting on a screen or display a plurality of group identifiers, together with an indication of the similarity of the group identified
10 relative to a desired topic profile, each group being user selectable; receiving a user selection of a given group identifier, and providing access to information on the selected group in response to the user selection.
- 15 30. A system for navigating between and within groups of information on the world wide web or other information sources, the method comprising: means for presenting on a screen or display a plurality of group identifiers, together with an indication of the similarity of the
20 group identified to a target topic profile, each group being user selectable; means for receiving a user selection of a given group identifier and means for providing access to information on the selected group in response to the user selection.
- 25 31. An interactive/electronic guide for locating websites or other groups of information on the world-wide web or such like, the guide being operable to present a plurality of group identifiers, together with an
30 indication of the similarity of each group to a target profile of content topics, each group identifier being user selectable, wherein selection of a group identifier provides access to information on that selected group.

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32. A guide as claimed in claim 31 wherein the group identifiers are presented in pre-determined order, thereby to provide an indication of the similarity of the group to a target profile.

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33. A guide as claimed in claim 33 wherein the groups are presented in a descending order of similarity, with the most similar group to the target profile being presented at the start of a list and the least similar group being presented at the end of that list.

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34. A guide as claimed in any of claims 31 to 33 wherein a graphical indication is provided to provide a visual indication of a group's similarity to the target profile.

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35. A guide as claimed in claim 34 wherein the graphical identifier is selectable, thereby to allow the user to select the associated group.

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36. A guide as claimed in claim 31 that is operable to cause one of a plurality of additional location pages to be presented on selection of a given group, preferably wherein the location pages include a plurality of topic identifiers, preferably ordered by the importance of the topics identified within the located group, preferably each topic being user selectable, preferably wherein selection of a given topic provides access to information on that selected topic.

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37. A computer program, preferably on a data carrier or some other computer readable medium, the computer program being operable to generate a system for use on the internet or intranet site or such like, the program

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having code or instruction configured to: present a plurality of group identifiers, together with an indication of the similarity of the group identified relative to a desired topic profile, each group being user selectable; receive a selection of a given group, and provide access to the located group or related information in response to the group selection.

38. A method for profiling a group or collection of text based electronic documents, the method comprising: analysing every document in the group to identify key topics; allocating a measure of importance to identified key topics, and using that measure to generate a topic profile that includes a plurality of topic identifiers and an indication of the importance of each of the topics identified to the group as a whole or in part.

39. A method as claimed in claim 38 wherein the group of electronic documents comprises pages of a web site.

40. A method as claimed in claim 39 further involving downloading each page of the site in order to do the step of analysing.

41. A method as claimed in claim 38 or claim 39 wherein the step of analysing the documents involves searching for specific words.

42. A method as claimed in any of claims 38 to 41 wherein the step of analysing involves searching and eliminating topics that are not related to important key words.

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43. A method as claimed in claim 42 comprising:
determining a list of words related to each of a
plurality of key topics identified in the group;
determining whether each key topic appears in the list of
related words for any of the other key topics in the
group and discarding any of the key topics where the key
topics does not appear in the list of related words for
any other of the key topics.

44. A system for profiling a group or collection of text
based electronic documents, the system comprising: means
for analysing every document in the group to identify key
topics; means for allocating a measure of importance to
identified key topics, and means for using that measure
to generate a topic profile that includes a plurality of
topic identifiers and an indication of the importance of
each of the topics identified to the group as a whole.

45. A system as claimed in claim 44 wherein the group of
electronic documents comprises pages of a web site.

46. A system as claimed in claim 45 further comprising
means for downloading each page of the site in order to
do the analysis.

47. A system as claimed in claim 45 or claim 46 wherein
the means for analysing are operable to search for
specific words of importance to the site owners.

48. A system as claimed in any of claims 44 to 47
wherein the means for analysing are operable to search
for and eliminate topics that are not related to
important key words.

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49. A system as claimed in claim 48 comprising: means
for determining a list of words related to each of a
plurality of key topics identified in the group; means
5 for determining whether each key topic appears in the
list of related words for any of the other key topics in
the group and means for discarding any of the key topics
where the key topics does not appear in the list of
related words for any other of the key topics.

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